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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1.   The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to

show/describe the components as described in the specification. Any structural detail

that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown

in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37

CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the

application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures

appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being

amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as

"amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be

removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must

be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several

views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary

to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after

the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either

"Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are

not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required

corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held

in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2.   The Specification is objected to because the term "voice recognition" is misused

for what nowadays is called --speech recognition-- in the speech signal processing art.

While "voice recognition" and "speech recognition" were both once used

interchangeably to refer to spoken word recognition, nowadays these two terms are

distinguished. The term "voice recognition" now denotes identification of who is doing

the speaking (class 704/246), while "speech recognition" (or word recognition") denotes

identification of what is being said (class 704/251). So, appropriate correction to the

proper terms of art is required (e.g. page 2, line 24).

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.   **Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 15** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Backfried et al. (USPN 6,801,893), hereinafter referenced as Backfried.

Regarding **claim 1**, Backfried discloses a method for generating and/or

expanding a vocabulary database of a voice recognition system (adding new words in

the vocabulary; column 1, lines 7-11), comprising:

providing a computer-based audio module (computerized; abstract and column 9,

lines 21-15); and

training the voice recognition system by acoustic training using the audio module

(acoustic pattern; abstract with column 4, lines 19-37 and column 10, lines 29-30 with

column 12, lines 5-10).

Regarding **claim 2**, Backfried discloses a method wherein the training the voice

recognition system is performed by:

providing the audio module with vocabulary data (word and pronunciation;

column 8 ,lines 60-63); and

speaking the vocabulary data to the voice recognition system (speech

recognition) in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the

vocabulary database (vocabulary; column 8, lines 60-63).

Regarding **claim 3**, Backfried discloses a method wherein the training the voice

recognition system (speech recognition system) is performed by providing the audio

module with vocabulary data from a speech database (column 4, lines 13-38 and

column 8, lines 60-63).

Regarding **claim 7**, Backfried discloses a method further comprising creating the

speech database by automated speech synthesis of text data using a speech synthesis

unit (speech synthesis; column 4, lines 13-15).

Regarding **claim 8**, Backfried discloses a method further comprising providing the text data from a text database (text system; column 2, lines 40-46 and column 10, lines 60-67).

Regarding **claim 9**, Backfried discloses a method wherein the audio module includes a speech synthesis unit which converts text data to speech data (text-to-speech system; column 2, lines 40-46 and column 10, lines 60-67).

Regarding **claim 10**, Backfried discloses a method further comprising providing the text data from a text database (text system; column 2, lines 40-46 and column 10, lines 60-67).

Regarding **claim 11**, Backfried discloses a method further comprising:

creating a text database in an automatic manner (text system; column 2, lines 40-46 and column 10, lines 60-67); and

providing the text data to the speech synthesis unit from the text database (synthesis; column 2, lines 40-46 and column 10, lines 60-67).

Regarding **claim 15**, Backfried discloses a method wherein the training the voice recognition system is performed by providing the audio module with vocabulary data from a speech database and further comprising:

creating the speech database by automated speech synthesis of text data from a text database using a speech synthesis unit; (synthesis; column 2, lines 41-46 with column 4, lines 13-15 and column 12, lines 18-20) and

analyzing and processing the text data prior to the speech synthesis (column 4, lines 13-15 and column 10, lines 60-67).

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6.   **Claims 16-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Furman et al. (USPN 6,049,594), hereinafter referenced as Furman.

        Regarding **claim 16**, Furman discloses a voice recognition system comprising:

        a vocabulary database (database; column 9, lines 48-60);

        a text database (text; column 5, lines 35-45); and

        a speech synthesis unit capable of receiving text data from the text database by

acoustic speech input (acoustic; column 4, line 66 – column 5, line 61) so as to

generate and/or expand the vocabulary database (abstract).

        Regarding **claim 17**, Furman disclose a voice recognition system wherein the

text database is generated by automatically searching a telecommunications network

for text data related to a selected search term (telecommunication network; column 9,

lines 48-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8.   **Claims 4-6 and 12-14** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Backfried in view of Furman.

Regarding **claim 4**, Backfried discloses a method wherein the training the voice

recognition system is performed by providing the audio module with vocabulary data

(abstract with column 4, lines 19-38), but does not specifically teach it being done via a

telecommunications network.

Furman discloses an automatic vocabulary generator wherein it provides the

audio module with vocabulary data via a telecommunications network

(telecommunication network; column 9, lines 48-60), such that a user can use a variety

of networks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to modify Backfried method wherein it teaches a

telecommunications network, as taught by Furman, to add flexibility to meet user needs

(column 13, lines 14-18).

Regarding **claims 5 and 6**, Backfried teaches a method for generating and/or

expanding a vocabulary database of a voice recognition system, but does not

specifically teach providing the audio module with vocabulary data is performed in a

streaming mode.

Furman discloses an automatic vocabulary generator wherein it provides a
streaming mode the audio module with vocabulary data is performed in a streaming
mode (column 9, lines 48-60), such that a user can use a variety of networks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the
time the invention was made to modify Backfried method wherein it teaches a streaming
mode, as taught by Furman, to add flexibility to meet user needs (column 13, lines 14-
18).

Regarding **claim 12**, Backfried discloses a method for generating and/or
expanding a vocabulary database of a voice recognition system, but does not
specifically teach wherein the creating the text database is performed by:

finding the text data in an internal or external telecommunications network using
at least one search engine, the text data being associated with at least one search term;

receiving the text data from at least one text data source; and

automatically storing the text data in the text database.

Furman discloses a method wherein the creating the text database is performed
by:

finding the text data in an internal or external telecommunications network
(telecommunications network; column 9, lines 48-60 with column 11, lines 51-62) using
at least one search engine (search), the text data being associated with at least one
search term (column 13, lines 1-18);

receiving the text data from at least one text data source (text; column 5, lines
35-66); and

automatically storing the text data in the text database (text; column 5, lines 35-66), such that a user can use a variety of networks.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Backfried method wherein it teaches a telecommunication network, as taught by Furman, to add flexibility to meet user needs (column 13, lines 14-18).

Regarding **claim 13**, Backfried discloses a method for generating and/or expanding a vocabulary database of a voice recognition system, but does not specifically teach a method wherein the telecommunications network includes the Internet.

Furman teaches a method wherein the telecommunications network includes the Internet (Internet; column 2, lines 7-17), such that a user can use a variety of networks

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Backfried method wherein the telecommunication network includes the Internet, as taught by Furman, to add flexibility to meet user needs (column 13, lines 14-18).

Regarding **claim 14**, Backfried discloses a method wherein the creating the text database is performed by automatically reading the text data from the at least one text data source using a data processing system and wherein the automatically storing is performed using the data processing system (text-to-speech; column 2, lines 40-46 and column 10, lines 60-67).
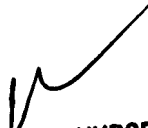
Conclusion

9.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jakieda R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571-272-7619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JRJ
May 28, 2007

DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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